

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 10 has been amended. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 10-12, 14-16 and 18 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 10-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. (US 6,144,625) (hereinafter "Kuroda").

Kuroda discusses an optical disc discriminating system. In Kuroda, if the tracking servo is in its closed condition and an optical disc D to be discriminated is a DVD-R, the composite signal S PC will be an overlapped signal in which a pulse signal caused due to prepits formed in the land tracks is overlapped on a wobbling signal from groove tracks). On the other hand, if an optical disc to be discriminated is a DVD-RAM, a pulse signal caused due to prepits and in synchronism with the head portion (having prepits) of each recording sector, and a wobble signal from the groove tracks, will be intermittently generated alternatively and periodically. Kuroda, 8:11-8:21.

Claims 10-16 and 18

Amended claim 10 recites: "...an LPP signal detector that detects a certain voltage level in the push-pull signal immediately after the servo controller enables tracking..." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 13 and paragraph [0033] of the specification.

In contrast to claim 10, Kuroda discusses that the tracking servo is in its closed condition before the optical disc D can be discriminated. This technical feature of claim 10 makes it possible to identify a disc type based on whether an LPP signal is detected in the early stage of a disc driving period, i.e., immediately after controlling a tracking servo, which is not discussed in Kuroda. Accordingly, in the present invention as recited in claim 10, operational conditions of a disc drive can be set in the early stage of the disc driving period and, thus, lead-in time of a disc can be reduced.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 11, 12, 14-16 and 18 depend on claim 10 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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